

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 07228 221815Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1615

INFO ALL EC CAPS 2361

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, TU, GR, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC RELATIONS WITH TURKEY: JULY 24 TALKS POSTPONED

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7187; EC BRUSSELS 6968

1. ACCORDING TO DEMARGERIE, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S CHEF DE CABINET, THE EC/TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING, PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE ON JULY 24 IN ANKARA, HAD BEEN DEFINITELY POSTPONED AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE TURKS. FURTHER, ACCORDING TO DE MARGERIE, THE TURKS HAVE NOT TAKEN UP DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S OFFER TO GO TO ANKARA FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE SAME DATE.

2. ULTIMATE STICKING POINT WHICH LED THE TURKS TO PROPOSE POSTPONEMENT WAS THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE EC'S OFFER ON TURKISH WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THOSE REGARDING EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES.

3. DE MARGERIE FURTHER REPORTED THAT IN SEEKING POSTPONEMENT
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 07228 221815Z

OF THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING, THE TURKS INDICATED

THAT THEY WOULD NOT TAKE IT AMISS IF THE EC WENT AHEAD WITH ITS PLANNED ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING (AND FORMAL OPENING OF ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS) WITH THE GREEKS ON JULY 27.

4. COMMENT: FOR SOME TIME THE EC HAS ATTEMPTED TO PURSUE AN EVENHANDED APPROACH TO DEALINGS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY DOWN TO THE PRESENT EFFORT TO AVOID LETTING THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE GET OFF THE STARTING BLOCK BEFORE PRESENTING THEIR NEW OFFERS TO THE TURKS. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH US DEMARGERIE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE RELIEF THAT THE TURKS HAD RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO THE JULY 27 MEETING WITH THE GREEKS, THEREBY PERMITTING THE EC TO "UNCOUPLE" THE LINK BETWEEN THE TWO AND TO PURSUE EACH SET OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ITS OWN MERITS.

5. FOR THE RECORD, DE MARGERIE IS LEAVING HIS POST AS OF THE END OF JULY AND IS ALSO RESIGNING HIS POSITION IN FRENCH CIVIL SERVICE TO TAKE UP A NEW JOB IN FRENCH PRIVATE SECTOR AS OF SEPTEMBER. HE WILL BE REPLACED AS ORTOLI'S CHEF DE CABINET BY DENIS GAUTIER-SAUVIGNAC, WHO CURRENTLY FOLLOWS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE CABINET.HINTON

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